

CLAIMS:

1. A system for issuing, transferring and redeeming certificates representative of underlying publicly-traded property, comprising:
 - (a) means for establishing a first communication link between a customer and a supplier;
 - (b) means for providing a menu to a customer, said menu containing a list of publicly-traded properties, and including a means for permitting said customer to select a quantity of one or more of said properties;
 - (c) means for establishing a second communication link between said supplier and a provider of price information in respect of said properties;
 - (d) means for communicating to said customer the market price of said selected properties, as well as the total price of said selected properties;
 - (e) means for receiving personal information from a customer, including payment information;
 - (f) means for receiving information in respect of share certificate recipient , including name and home and/or Email address of said recipient;
 - (g) means for storing in a database information with respect to said customer, said recipient and properties corresponding to said certificate; and
 - (h) means for conveying said certificate to said customer or to said recipient either in printed or in electronic form, to be printed by the customer or by the recipient.
2. A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for redeeming said certificate at the option of said customer or said recipient at a redemption value, said redemption value being the market value of said publicly-traded property or properties at the time and date of redemption, optionally minus a service charge.
3. A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for automatically generating a serial number to identify each issued certificate.

4. A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for automatically purchasing shares by the supplier, in response to issuing said certificate to said customer or recipient.
5. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said property comprises a publicly-traded share of a share issuing corporation.
6. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said first communication link is established via an Internet website.
7. A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for said supplier to maintain a data link with a stock market service provider, for the provision of current market prices for selected securities and for effecting purchasing and sale of shares or other publicly-traded property.
8. A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for adding a service charge to a customer order upon receipt of same for the purchase or redemption of said certificate.
9. A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for validating customer payment.
10. A system as defined in claim 4 further comprising means for purchasing of said publicly-traded property on the open market by said supplier in the same or similar quantity as represented by said certificate, in response to issue of said certificate to said customer or recipient.
11. A system as defined in claim 10, further comprising means for selling said publicly-traded property on the open market by said supplier in the same or similar quantity as represented by said certificate, in response to redemption of said certificate by said customer or recipient.

12. A system as defined in claim 1 comprising means to automatically notify said customer or recipient of events relating to the value or effective number of said publicly-traded properties which could require an adjustment to said certificate.